THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1871.

The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

The House Votes for the Removal of the Duties on Salt, Coal, Tea, and Coffee.

Host of New Bills Introduced in Both Houses.

The Customs Service Reform Bill Explained in the Senate.

Few Forms of Custom House Frauds Enumerated.

The Self-Adjusting Currency Bill Introduced in the House.

The House Adopts a Resolution for Final Adjournment To-Morrow.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—An episode, which caused considerable amusement in the Senate to-day, arose upon the question of referring the French mediation claims to the Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Sumner moved such reference, and then turned upon General Cameron, the newly-appointed Chairman of that committee, and asked his varied and profound information as to this subject, as it was a most important one, involving abstruse principles of international law, profound historic, all sovereign, and French fashionably with French diplomatic history for the past century. He, himself, had tried to secure favorable action on these claims twenty years, but had always failed by reason of opposition in various quarters. While the Massachusetts Senator was at his best, a quiet, yet audible, smile went round the Senate. Mr. Cameron sat nothing his out while Mr. Sumner was talking, as if he only understood what the former was driving at, and, what the instructions of the former honorable committee were without, saying he was under no reply or not. He, however, made the most of the occasion, thanked Sumner for calling attention to the matter, and promised that the committee would give all the consideration to the claims which they could properly.

SERIAL OF THE BILL ON COAL, SALT, ETC.—The high tariff men are in a bad pocket to-night over the development of strength in favor of free trade reform in the House to-day. While Mr. Wm's bill, as was noted yesterday, was the bill of the House was in Committee of the Whole, under Mr. Kelogg's leadership, every effort to modify existing tariff laws was checked by elaborate tactics of opposition, but to-day, after members had finished presenting bills and petitions, Mr. Dawes, of Maine, got the floor, and moved a suspension of the rules, to order a resolution bill to introduced abolishing the duties on salt, coal, tea, and coffee. The House seconded the motion by a vote of 130 yeas, the yeas and nays being ordered. Mr. Farnsworth then offered a resolution that iron ore be added to the list, which was adopted by 131 to 57. While this latter was transpiring, several motions to adjourn were voted down, the yeas and nays being ordered on each. Mr. Randall, getting out of patience at the free trade sentiments manifested, moved a resolution adjourning the day on and after, which was also adopted by 147 to 38—the unanimous voting solidly with the Democratic support. There is, unfortunately, a majority in the Senate in favor of coal and salt, which is to be reached; but the action of the House on tea and coffee will not be sustained.

CLASS OUTRAGES—PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.—The only thing that Police Congress together is to a desire to adopt some kind of legislation to protect the South against the Ku-Klux Klan of the States. The question which agitates the political numbers is as to the manner of bringing these difficulties, and how far Congress may go in the matter. So far as the Republicans are concerned, the Democrats seem to be very well satisfied with the Republicans. The Democrats are in a position of the Republicans, the Democrats in minority advocating any bill whatever. This subject will come up to-morrow, but the Senate is determined upon some action of Senate report. Although only about [illegible] are against the bill, the majority of the Democrats who are unknown to be in favor of the bill, and the Republicans who are opposed to it, the committee is also divided on the subject, the right of sending the President of the military power necessary to suppress the outrages, and are positive that no bills introducing this proposition could pass either house. Senators of the Republican party, Sherman, Sumner, Schurz, and others, are in favor of any legislation at all, hence that it shall be confined exclusively to the Supreme Court of the United States in criminal offenses. If a compromise bill cannot be reached, nothing of the House Ku-Klux bill will be left on the table by an overwhelming majority, and a vote on Mr. Davis' motion, to adjourn to-day, the fate of the Ku-Klux bill now pending will be a joint cause committee, is regarded as a foregone conclusion that the large majority of the Republican Senators there do not wish to tamper with the question in any shape. The question is in session to-night, and will have another meeting. Very likely no one part of a bill to be agreed upon. The cause of the House is to be immediately taken by a motion to lay on the table.

THE CIVIL SERVICE REFORM BILL.—Mr. Pomeroy called up his Civil Service Reform to-day, to correct abuses existing in the New York Custom House, and make some reforms therein which attracted the general notice of the Senators. He charged that the grossest and most appalling prevailed in the Custom House. That false weights were used in the scales, and false invoices were made through collusion with Custom House officers. He cited the instances where bottles were offered to be accepted, by these Custom House officials, and that the Retrenchment and Reform Committee knew the extent of the corruption, and strived in the most important of all government departments. A question arose as to the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, and Mr. Sherman claiming that it belong to the Committee on Commerce, the Senate, under Mr. Kelogg's leadership, every effort to modify existing tariff laws was checked by elaborate tactics of opposition, but to-day, after members had finished presenting bills and petitions, Mr. Dawes, of Maine, got the floor, and moved a suspension of the rules, to order a resolution bill to introduced abolishing the duties on salt, coal, tea, and coffee. The House seconded the motion by a vote of 130 yeas

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TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1871.

THE SAN DOMINGO BUSINESS.

The news from San Domingo contains the statement that Cabral, the President of that Republic, who is at this moment off the throne, has raised a military demonstration at some point, which, was suppressed by the officers loaded for that purpose from the United States Single Congress. The intelligence naturally gives rise to an anxious inquiry as to what the vessels of the United States Navy have to do with the suppression of civil wars in other countries. When General Babcock visited San Domingo, a year or so ago, to negotiate with Baez, he carried with him the impression that the President to the naval commander to treat all opposition to Baez, by his own people, or by Haytl, or other foreign governments, as violence offered to the authority of the United States. Under these circumstances Admiral Poor, with two vessels, entered the harbor of Port au Prince, and notified the President of Hayti to this effect. Considering the fact that the two republics are virtually at war, this was nothing more nor less than a declaration of war by the United States against Hayti. Since that time a fleet of United States vessels has been kept in the ports of San Domingo to protect Baez, who, the United States Agent in that country reports, would be hurled from power in twenty-four hours, by his own people, if these vessels were withdrawn. Cabral is the ex-President, who was put out of office by a revolution, and who is seeking to be restored.

In the protocol to the treaty made with Baez, President Grant promises to use his private influence with United States Senators to have the treaty ratified.

Here is a most extraordinary state of affairs. The President of the United States, without authority from Congress, uses the navy to oust a partisan in the executive chair of a foreign government, and to keep him there in spite of the protests of the people of that republic, and has employed that naval force to suppress domestic revolution, and to coerce other foreign governments from insisting on their claims against the republic thus protected. Suppose Mr. Edwards Pierrepont, Minister to the United States would not permit any hostility against the government of Maximilian, or that Andrew Johnson had notified the Cubans that they should not oppose the government of Spain, and had sent the United States Navy to enforce these orders! Suppose Great Britain had notified the United States that it was in treaty with Jeff. Davis for the purchase of the Confederate States, and any violence to the Richmond Government pending that negotiation would be resented as offered to Great Britain! What, under either of these circumstances, would the American people have said? Yet they are parallel cases. The President of the United States has taken advantage of his position to use the navy to keep an usurping adventurer in the executive chair of San Domingo, has paid him $150,000 in gold, and has used him to negotiate the sale of that country to the United States, at a cost which Senator Patterson, of New Hampshire, estimates at $40,000,000.

For what purpose are these most extraordinary and illegal proceedings undertaken? What portion of the American people have ever asked for the annexation of the wretched Republic of San Domingo? What do we want with it? Of what use, commercially or politically, will it be to us, except as a degraded colony, costing us many millions of dollars each year to maintain? And then, the undignified proceeding of a President of the United States commencing with a revolution, the use his personal influence to induce Senators to ratify the treaty. The entire proceedings by our government in this matter of the annexation of San Domingo have been marked with a violation of dignity and propriety, not to say of law, which is without precedent in our history, and it is time for the Republican party to make a bold protest against any further prosecution of a business which is alienating the party, and becoming offensive to the whole country.

CUSTOM HOUSE INIQUITY.

A most awful revelation of mass of corruption has lately been unearthed by the investigations of the select Congressional Committee into the conduct of the New York Custom House. The testimony which the Congressional Committee of 1869 elicited concerning the mode of making appointments, and other bad practices of that office, was duly commented upon at the time of its publication, and has formed ever since an unanswerable argument for a reform of the civil service. The facts drawn out by the recent investigations go more into the details of Custom House stealing. Custom House bribery, Custom House perjury, and general Custom House roguerdom, with reference to getting up a thorough remedy for the evil. It seems that the contest for the championship in stealing is between the weighers and the inspectors, with the chances decidedly in favor of the latter, of whom there are 245 in service. The weighers have only the opportunity of making light weight, receiving for that favor such bonus as the importer can afford and still gain by the transaction. The bonus of gauge and individual weighers have shouted aloud clamors at this sort of traffic. The weigher proper—that is, the box weigher—has other opportunities to filtrate his palms with gold, being stakes to that of weighing so badly that the importer will employ the city weigher to reweigh packages; then the latter functionary divides with him of the Custom House. One of the weighers, Charles H. Pearson (who now turns out (for what cause does not appear) testifies to this practice; also that, according to an estimate which he swears to, the government loses $112,500 per year through the employment of a superfluous force.

But the inspectors seem to have the best chance at the stealings. Besides the opportunities for personal collusion with smugglers, which are numerous, they have a regular custom of taking bribes from steamship companies for allowing their engines to be checked over night, which practice, of itself, greatly facilitates the clandestine removal of goods. This species of bribery is so regular that there is a fixed tariff of rates. George W. Elton, an inspector now on duty, testified before the committee as follows:

"Q. Do you know cases of steamships or steamers had the engines checked? A. Yes, sir. Q. Do you know of any money being paid to the inspectors for allowing the engines to be checked over night? A. I have heard so. Q. What is the usual price? A. Fifteen dollars is the usual price. Q. Do you know of any other officers being bribed in this way? A. I have heard so. Q. Do you know of any money being paid to the inspectors of steamships? A. I have heard so. Q. Do you know of any other officers being bribed in this way? A. I have heard so. Q. What is the usual price? A. Fifteen dollars is the usual price. Q. Do you know of any other officers being bribed in this way? A. I have heard so. Q. What is the usual price? A. Fifteen dollars is the usual price. Q. Do you know of any money being paid to the inspectors of steamships

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WASHINGTON.

Yesterday's Proceedings in Congress.

The House Adjournment Resolution Tabled in the Senate.

The Senate Care to Pass the Coal and Salt Duty Repeal Bills.

Mr. Sumner Presents a Memorial from Dominican Exiles.

A Ku-Klux Suppression Bill Agreed Upon in Republican Caucus.

A General Amnesty Bill Defeated in the House.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
WASHINGTON, March 13.—Although deposed from the head of the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Sumner presented a memorial from a number of exiles who could not speak, against having their native country sold out at auction by a tyrant and a usurper, and was proceeding to read it, intermingling the matter in the petition frequently with observations of his own, when Mr. Thurman moved a point of order, that such petitions, coming from subjects of another government, could not be received in the Senate without being made to appear that the petitioners were among the citizens of the United States. The chair sustained this point, the ground that the petition was not just based on the ground that it was in the nature of a petition to raise objection. It would be plenty of time to take such course when he intimated for a very particular object he had made. There he had asked for no reference to a committee nor any action whatever of the kind of the Senate. He had simply requested leave to lay the petition before the Senate, that it might be there heard and considered, which failed to pass the House at the last session, received favorable action, and Mr. Sherman had promised to bring it up in the Senate, which was done late in the day, when it passed.

SUMNER'S REMOVAL.

The card of Secretary Fish with regard to the connection between the single subject of Senator Sumner and the Santo Domingo treaty, which was published in a New York paper, makes a specific denial of certain allegations, but the error of that paper's correspondent was in stating that Fish, in putting the case as in regard to the facts themselves. The Secretary of State in dwelling particularly upon the fact that neither the English Minister nor any other foreign official proposed that Senator Sumner should be disqualified, and also in putting his case against the insinuation that he himself engage in any such intrigue with foreign ministers from his own place, and that Sumner's name was introduced in diplomatic circles only quite recently, which failed to pass the House at the last session, received favorable action, and Mr. Sherman had promised to bring it up in the Senate, which was done late in the day, when it passed.

THE TARIFF REVISAL BILL.

The House this afternoon passed the clauses on flax, coal, tea, and coffee were reported in the Senate, to-day, and, immediately upon their reception, Mr. Thurman moved to take up the bill for tea and salt bills, and expressed the hope that they would not be referred to standing committees, but, as it is now Friday, that they be taken up. Reference would be but a mere waste of time, for which no necessity existed. He, one of the committee, was a member of the Senate, passed from a committee, when Senator, Mr. Maryland, interposed an objection, thus throwing over the bill for one day. Senator Morton, Mr. Thurman, from the same, took the same action with regard to the salt and tea and coffee bills. A caucus of Republicans was called to-morrow, at which it was decided that both the coal and salt bills will pass by a decided majority.

THE SUPPRESSION BILL.

The special joint committee of both houses, after a long session last night, finally agreed upon a Ku-Klux bill, which, it is stated, is the result of lengthened conferences of both houses to-day. The bill, as agreed upon by the committee, is very long, and provides for the trial by Judges of Ku-Klux offenders, and, in conjunction with Footer and Morton's bill, and comparable with the views of other committees, manifests the determination of the Republicans to put down the Ku-Klux outrages, assassinations, etc. All cases arising under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments are to be tried exclusively by the United States courts, whereof most take the prescribed form of jury, which either is made especially severe. Where the jurors are Ku-Klux, the Judge is to carry it to execution and judgment, the Judge therein is required to call upon the President of the United States, who is empowered to call upon the military to execute the sentence, and, in conjunction with all necessary power is set to be exclusively in such cases, and in the hands of the Judge, the Ku-Klux, the Ku-Klux Amendment and Footer and Trumbull, of the committee, and Treasury and Finance, of the committee, and of the Southern Senators, are opposed to the bill in its present shape. Some of the bills do not agree with the Senate bill, and, while the former are clearly opposed to legislation of this character, declaring it unwise, inopportune and not needed, the latter, as a rule, the Republican Senators will insist that the bill be modified before being reported to the Senate. Senator Sherman, who left the city at noon to-day, has arrived at no conclusion. Another meeting to consider this bill will be held to-day, to-night, and there have been more conferences on the Senate.

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold its first meeting to-day for the purpose of electing an organizer. When the committee was constituted, Senator Sumner, who, by reason of his seniority, was entitled to the elevation to the head of the committee, and expressed his gratification at the worldwide regard he had for the committee, and, if he should be elected, would continue to hold the position as long as his health would permit. There are now pending before the committee a number of important matters, for which, if great importance, except that with the reputation of Columbia Senator Sumner, they therefore some late questions which need careful consideration.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee held its first session to-day, and took up for consideration several measures pertaining to the revenue. The tea and coal bill failed to receive concurrence action from the Senate. The bill authorizing National Banks to issue notes to the extent of their capital, and destroyed, which failed to pass the House at the last session, received favorable action, and Mr. Sherman has promised to bring it up in the Senate, which was done late in the day, when it passed.

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